

Suum Cuique

English Press Honesty Again

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P. Editor, The Catholic World

Recently in this column there appeared a statement that some of the English Catholic papers are more honest and courageous in the treatment of certain phases of the war than the general run of our secular papers in America or even than some of our Catholic papers. I don't say that all the papers published by our co-religionists in England spoke habitually with more forthrightness than all of our own here in America. Some correspondents wrote to inform me that on the whole the Catholic Press here is no less honest than that of England. I thank them for their letters and if my words in that previous article can be fairly interpreted as giving the English a blanket commendation and the Americans a blanket indictment I express my regret. I had not so intended and to be frank I don't think my words can be rightly taken in that sense.

Be that as it may let me give one more sample of what I mean. This time I take it from the Tablet of London rather than from the Weekly Review previously cited in which honesty and frankness are observed to an altogether extraordinary degree.

The London Times had carried a leading article in which it said that Russia and Britain were "two countries whose direct community of interest can be projected into the future" and spoke of the prospect that the Soviet would enter upon leadership in Eastern Europe. That leadership said the Times, ought not to depend solely on the Eastern people or the English.

On the same page of the Times there was another leader in which Nazism was vigorously attacked for its "deliberate effort to retard what the progress of Christianity has achieved in nineteenth century Europe."

The juxtaposition of the two articles are praising Russia and the other attacking Germany. We get much for the Tablet's sense of logic and truth. The Times, it said, cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds the hare of Christian European Civilization and the hound of revolutionary Communism. It is here wishful thinking says the Tablet, that by writing Russia Russia over and over again you can deprive the Soviet Union of its character as the headquarters of international red revolution.

Library Signpost

By Rev. Benedict Ehmann

Cues and Clues

If a Quiz master asked you to think in eight, you might after a little thinking think of the eight Beatitudes but I don't think you would remember that the Catholic Evidence Library is eight years old this week. Eight is a kind of an "in-between" number and so the birthday is being let pass unobserved by even as much as a cake. It is time to say Thanks once again to the double volunteers who have kept the Library alive this long with nothing in return but what a love of good books or give them and of course, a remembrance in the founders' prayers and Masses.

Let's add acquaintances. Be forget stop in and visit the Library if you have been long away. The stock of books is a bit on its way to the 1000 mark, and in all those titles there must surely be some 30 or 50, at least to fill your bill exactly.

Imagine having Martin or Adler or Novak or Cardinal Newman or St. Paul for your personal friend calling you up to ask whether you will be at home this evening for a visitor. Most certainly how soon will you come? And then an evening full of the bracing feast of thought.

The next best thing to that is to combine with these thinkers and devout people in their homes. In fact there is even an advantage in it over the personal visit. With a book there is not any shyness or constraint. You can stop make the author say it over again even three or four times without fearing that he may consider you a very stupid person, indeed.

Books therefore are a means of communion with the very best minds and souls in the world. Let us choose these friends wisely and they will open up vistas of unimagined peace and beauty on life. The Catholic Evidence Library is proud to introduce well, which one will it be? Come in and make your choice.

An early (1916) novel of John Buchan has just been reissued. It is called The Power House a fascinating tale of intrigue about a secret society known as The Power House which aims to get control of the world by seizing its key positions. Written in Buchan's competent, yarn-spinning style it will while away a couple of hours of a winter evening and at the same time give you a few slants on actual affairs of today.

For instance our civilization seems so solidly entrenched as the skyscrapers which carry on its business. We can hardly imagine a world without the British Empire or the United States. It might shock us to know that there are men who not only feel that a change would be easy but are actually working to effect that change. They are the masters of Germany and Russia, with their faglesmen all over the world.

In this book one of them says: "Reflect and you will find that the foundations are sand. You think that a wall as solid as the earth separates civilization from barbarism. I tell you the division is a thread a sheet of glass. A touch here, a push there and you bring back the reign of Saturn."

When he is reminded that there are too many key points in the civilized world to be pushed over all at once - keys that are strongly held, he answers: "Not so strongly as you think. Consider how delicate the machine is growing. As life grows more complex, the machinery grows more intricate and therefore more vulnerable. You so-called sanctions become so infinitely numerous that each in itself is

Remember the English are fighting for their life. Their backs are to the wall. On some days, as the news comes in from Russia and the rest of the Continent England seems to be in a perfectly desperate situation. With all the distraction offered by Russia, which at the time these words are written is still holding some five million Nazi soldiers occupied, England considers herself in no position to strike a blow on the Western Front or for that matter, on the Eastern or Southern Front. In a word she seems up against it. The Tablet suffers no illusion on that score. Its editors are not fools for optimism, nor are they mad jingoes. They see and they know.

But badly as they need the Russian alliance these English Catholics are not permitting their neighbor the great London Times to say or to suggest untrue things about the Soviet Union. Russia is the headquarters of International Red Revolution. Don't forget it. Don't imagine you can change the character of that government by dropping one name of it "Soviet" and calling it by the other "Russia." The Tablet is not hostile to the idea of fighting side by side with the Soviet to defeat Hitler. But it will not on that account allow the Times to get away with a dishonest or insincere or illogical statement.

That's what I mean when I say that the English Catholic papers are in general honest. I could select instances to the contrary here and there in the English Catholic Press. But characteristically they are to the fore.

I ventured to express the hope in that article of a few weeks ago that if we get deeper and deeper into the present war in fact all the way into a shooting war and if when we are in that way defeat and humiliation seems imminent we shall still continue to be honest and speak the truth whether it tells for us or against us.

I am confident that most of our Catholic papers will do so. As for the secular papers here in America, they run with the hare and hunt with the hounds like the London Times. They fustigate incessantly and rightly against Nazi tyranny and Nazi oppression of religion and until very lately they fustigated equally against Soviet tyranny and Soviet oppression of religion. But have you not noticed that they have "piped down" on the Soviets? They now lean the telling of the truth because at the moment it seems inexpedient. And we are not in the war! How far the daily newspapers will go in suppressing or concealing the truth about the Soviet government if we get into the war as Soviet allies we can only guess.

To the Catholic papers in this instance as in the matter of Spain and Mexico and a half hundred others will remain the duty of telling the truth though the heavens fall.

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They are strong only by our last agreement not to question them.

His interlocutor retorts that the goodwill of civilization will help to support this agreement and will keep its machinery going. The conspirator replies: "You have put your finger on the one thing that matters. Civilization is a conspiracy. What value would your police be if every criminal could find a sanctuary across the Channel or your law courts if no other tribunal recognized their decisions? Modern life is the silent impact of comfortable folk to keep up pretence. And it will survive all the day comes when there is another conspiracy to strip them bare."

A little mechanical device will wreck your navy. A few chemical combinations will upset every rule of war. It is the same with commerce. One or two minute changes might sink Britain to the level of Ecuador or give China the key of the world's wealth. And yet we never dream that these things are possible. We think our codes of card are the ramparts of the universe.

You can read the rest of it in this excellent treatise. You see we have been so muddled into thinking of things as supreme in themselves that they have come to be looked on as unchangeable. But in the meanwhile a profound change has happened in the minds of men and with the power of mind over matter a new use is given to things.

Science was to go forward giving us ever new and better blessings. And with its advance men would automatically grow better and better. Now we find its blessings are curses and will let loose. We forget that Science can give only power, not goodness.

As the hero of Buchan's thriller puts it at the end: Do you know what it is to deal with a pair of intelligence? A hand stripped of every shred of humanity? It is like being in the company of a snake.

The author was not consciously making a prophecy of 1941 back in 1916. But that is the note of the destructive revolution of today. (You may get this novel from the Catholic Evidence Library.)

Five Years Ago--

—of the Times of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From Nov. 5, 1936, Edition

The year's achievements in Catholic Schools of the diocese, the enrollment figures, and the outlook for the schools' future were commented upon in the annual report of the Rev. John M. Duffy, superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Rochester.

The canon that the Vatican had loaned money from Peter's Pence collection to the Italian government for advancing the war in Ethiopia which appeared in Revue Politique Parlementaire of Paris drew a crushing denial from Osservatore Romano Vatican newspaper.

For the first time since St. Charles Borromeo Church of Elmira Heights was constructed 22 years previously the strains of a pipe organ were heard following the blessing ceremony conducted by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Lee, V.F.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Nov. 8.—ST. THEODORE TYRO.
Monday, Nov. 9.—ST. ANDREW AVELLINO.
Tuesday, Nov. 10.—ST. MARTIN OF TOURS.
Wednesday, Nov. 11.—ST. MARTIN, POPE.
Thursday, Nov. 12.—ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA.
Friday, Nov. 13.—ST. JOSEPHAT.
Saturday, Nov. 14.—ST. ALBERT THE GREAT.

EDITORIAL FEATURES

Page My Pastor

Catholics In Non-Catholic Hospitals

By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven

Editor-In-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

Fran I'm so upset and low I've just been to the Presbyterian Hospital to see Myrtle. She's had a very serious operation.



Isn't she doing well, Cedic?

Oh yes, as well as can be expected but she had a narrow escape and that makes me shudder. You know, Fran, Myrtle doesn't come from a very pious Catholic home.

I asked her tonight if she had the priest, and she said that nobody had given that a thought in the excitement.

Did you notify her parish priest, Cedic?

Yes, at once I asked her if she didn't want to see her pastor? She said, Sure, I'd love to have him visit me. But then she got a little uneasy. I'm out of danger, though, aren't I? I assured her that that more and I explained that a priest didn't come only when people were in extreme danger and I pointed out that his blessing would help to see her through safely on her way to recovery.

She must have felt much easier after your assurance. She isn't entirely out of the woods yet, Cedic?

Well, you know, Fran, so many things can happen after a serious operation even if the operation is successful. Anyhow, I'm sure her pastor will make her receive Holy Communion and fix things up spiritually.

You tipped him off as to her religious standing?

I did as well as I could. Fran over the hospital phone. Why will Catholics want to go to a non-Catholic hospital when we have our own?

I know that girl would never have gone to the operating table unprepared and unfit to meet her Maker in a hospital managed by Sisters.

I'm sure it wouldn't have happened to a good Catholic. Fran sometimes it's the attending doctor's fault that a non-Catholic hospital is chosen because it's the only place he operates so he says. But when the patient and the family know that it must be a Catholic hospital they find a way out as a rule. Then in a city like this there are plenty of fine Catholic physicians and surgeons who'll gladly accommodate the patient according to his religious inclinations and wishes.

You're right, Cedic. In this town no Catholic has a real excuse to jeopardize his spiritual welfare in a crisis.

They certainly do just that when they go to a place where God isn't kept and there's very little thought of Him and where there's no priest near when it is suddenly a question of life or death.

You're right of course, Cedic. There's one thing though that I can't understand about Catholic hospitals. As a rule they'll leave non-Catholic patients religiously alone when it comes to dying.

I'm afraid there's more to it than that. I don't think that's a downright charity.

How do you figure that, Fran?

Well, if a nun or the hospital chaplain approached a non-Catholic from a religious standpoint, there'd be danger that the word would go out by gobs that the institution was used for proselytizing purposes and.

And, therefore, go ahead and let a poor human creature die like a dog? Fran, that shouldn't be. The late Father Bowen a priest in Dubuque, Iowa, while a chaplain at the Catholic hospital started a Nurses' Apostolate.

What for, Fran? He'd found through a general survey that in the Catholic hospitals throughout the states, sixty per cent of the sick and dying are non-Catholics. He discovered that most of them had no definite church affiliation and passed out of this life without any spiritual thought or religious consolation. He felt that we Catholics were derelict in our duty of mercy so he organized the nurses in his hospital and gave them instruction in how to give spiritual comfort to well-disposed non-Catholics in their dying moments.

That's a very thoughtful idea, Fran.

Yes, the prayer he composed which can be recited for Jew, Protestant and Catholic alike is most touching and inspirational. And there is absolutely no mention created that the attending Catholic nurse, whether in a private home or a hospital, is out for a conversion. The prayer not only helps the dying to expire more peacefully, but it is so simple and true that it also affects the bystanders.

Is it applicable for everybody?

Yes, even a fervent orthodox Jew will breathe it with devotion if one sentenced is left out.

When was this Nurses' Apostolate organized, Fran?

In 1935, but it has been a little slow in spreading because Father Bowen got sick and shortly afterwards died.

And has its promotion been dropped?

No, the present chaplain of the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Dubuque and the wife of a judge, Mrs. Anne Stuart who worked with Father Bowen, are very much interested in seeing the Apostolate organized in all Catholic hospitals in the country. It's one of Archbishop Beckmann's peace projects for Catholic Action.

Can't we write to them for all the necessary information and literature so that we can interest Sister Superior at our hospital? I know her pretty well and Dad is doing some work for the hospital right now. I'm sure I can talk to her without giving the impression that we are bugging in.

Cedic, I'd gladly go with you after we have sufficient information. But I don't quite see that it's bugging in. Our intention is to help to promote the aim for which Catholic hospitals are organized.

Of course, Fran, but you know how some people react to suggestions. They're apt to think we're criticizing them for neglect or failure in their duty.

We gain double when we relieve a brother at the price of our own humiliation. St. John Francis Regis.

EDITORIALS

(Continued from Page 18)

heard of Christ's career. Without hesitation, with no shadow of wavering, he went in the hour of his deep sorrow to Jesus. In all confidence he placed his petition before Him. "Come and place Thy hand upon her and she will return to life."

Christ went with the father, and raised the girl to life. He did not discuss with him first of all, the fact that the daughter would rise on the last day, as he did with Mary and Martha when they told him their brother Lazarus was dead. The prayer of the sisters to Jesus did not ask so directly that he restore Lazarus to the number of the living. "If Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died, but now I know that whatsoever Thou shalt ask of God, God will give it Thee."

Faith tells the Christian soul that death has lost its sting in the wonderful Redemption Jesus has purchased for all those near to us go down to death, leaving us to sorrow, but not as those who have no hope. The saving power of Christ will affect the body even as it affects the soul. Body and soul share in the effects of the Redemption. The life of Heaven shall be following the last day, a life of body and soul. Of every one who dies, Christ says to the surviving survivors the same words he spoke to the Ruler of Sunday's Gospel: "This father, mother, brother, sister, child will return to life." Christ's power shall be made manifest in the case of every man and woman that dies in the Lord. Death shall be no more! Christ, Who came that man might have life and have it more abundantly, shall manifest His saving power over all men when on the last day He brings about their return to life.